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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,725	12/15/2000	Bryan R. Goring	NTL-3.2.141/3504(11726STU	1456

26345 7590 01/27/2004

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EXAMINER

RETTA, YEHDEGA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3622

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,725

Applicant(s)

GORING, BRYAN R.

Examiner

Yehdega Retta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sleeper U.S. Patent No. 6,404,074.

Regarding claim 24 Sleeper teaches a coupon generator coupled to an input port to receive and process purchase information, the coupon generator providing an index pointer responsive to purchase information and a coupon image database having accessible coupon fields for storage and retrieval of coupon images, said coupon generator incorporating a related coupon image with the purchase information for transmission to an output port (see col. 2 line 41 to col. 4 line 39, col. 6 line 50 to col. 8 line 47).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleeper U.S. Patent No. 6,404,074 and further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding claims 1-4, Sleeper teaches downloading transaction information; retrieving image and printing the image (see col. 3 line 49 to col. 4 line 39). Sleeper does not explicitly disclose converting the image into pixels matrix, or into dithered black and white or grey scale representation and selectively printing pixels corresponding to the pixel matrix. Official notice is taken, that converting an image into pixels matrix, or into dithered black and white or grey scale representation and providing a printed scan line composed of individual pixels, is old and well known in the art of printers. Also as admitted by applicant that available printers are capable of providing several scan lines with specified pixels to print high or low resolution image (see applicant's specification page 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to convert image into pixels matrix and printing a scan line by selectively printing pixels in order to process and print stored scanned composite image.

Regarding claims 5-8, Sleeper teaches image information being a file name, or a URL, downloading image from remote location, identified by the URL (see col. 11 line 19 to col. 12 line 42).

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Regarding claim 9, Sleeper teaches printing the image in a predetermined location in the receipt (see fig. 2 and col. 3 line 49 to col. 4 line 35).

Regarding claims 10, 12, 13, Sleeper teaches monitoring transaction information; retrieving image and printing the image (see col. 3 line 49 to col. 4 line 39). Sleeper does not explicitly disclose converting the image into pixels matrix, or into dithered black and white or grey scale representation and selectively printing pixels corresponding to the pixel matrix. Official notice is taken, that converting an image into pixels matrix, or into dithered black and white or grey scale representation and providing a printed scan line composed of individual pixels, is old and well know in the art of printers. Also as admitted by applicant that available printers are capable of providing several scan lines with specified pixels to print high or low resolution image (see applicant's specification page 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to convert image into pixels matrix and printing a scan line by selectively printing pixels in order to process and print stored scanned composite image.

Regarding claims 11 and 14-17, Sleeper teaches comparing the transaction information to a database and downloading information based on a match, image information being a file name, or a URL, downloading image from remote location, identified by the URL (see col. 3 line 49 to col. 4 line 39 and col. 11 line 19 to col. 12 line 42).

Regarding claim 18, Sleeper teaches printing the image in a predetermined location in the receipt (see fig. 2 and col. 3 line 49 to col. 4 line 35).

Regarding claims 19-21 and 23, Sleeper teaches a work station connect to a network, a printer and software loaded on the work station (see fig. 1 and 15-18) to download transaction

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information; retrieving image and printing the image (see col. 3 line 49 to col. 4 line 39). Sleeper does not explicitly disclose converting the image into pixels matrix, or into dithered black and white or grey scale representation and selectively printing pixels corresponding to the pixel matrix. Official notice is taken, that converting an image into pixels matrix, or into dithered black and white or grey scale representation and providing a printed scan line composed of individual pixels, is old and well know in the art of printers. Also as admitted by applicant that available printers are capable of providing several scan lines with specified pixels to print high or low resolution image (see applicant's specification page 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to convert image into pixels matrix and printing a scan line by selectively printing pixels in order to process and print stored scanned composite image.

Regarding claim 22, Sleeper teaches work station including a kiosk (see col. 12 lines 26-42).

Regarding claims 25 and 26, Sleeper teaches monitoring transaction information; comparing the transaction information to a database and downloading information based on a match, downloading image and printing the image (see col. 3 line 49 to col. 4 line 39). Sleeper does not explicitly disclose converting the image into pixels matrix, or into dithered black and white or grey scale representation and selectively printing pixels corresponding to the pixel matrix. Official notice is taken, that converting an image into pixels matrix, or into dithered black and white or grey scale representation and providing a printed scan line composed of individual pixels, is old and well know in the art of printers. Also as admitted by applicant that available printers are capable of providing several scan lines with specified pixels to print high or

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low resolution image (see applicant's specification page 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to convert image into pixels matrix and printing a scan line by selectively printing pixels in order to process and print stored scanned composite image.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Woodbury Jr. U.S. Patent No. 6,454,647 teaches automated collect and win sweepstakes for ATM transaction

Kanevsky et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,334,109 teaches distributed personalized advertisement system and method.

Cole U.S. Patent No. 5,850,217 teaches printing graphical logo of a retail establishment on a credit card receipt.

Ravi et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,661,534 teaches processing input image one scan line at a time.

Sasaki U.S. Patent No. 6,486,973 teaches correcting pixel data subject using dither processes.

Li et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,529,629 teaches classifying data by looking at a pattern of pixels across a scan line.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yehdega Retta whose telephone number is (703) 305-0436. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (703) 305-8469. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9326.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Yehdega Retta
Examiner
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YR